

State of the City, 2014

Mayor JH Hadfield

Each year, as the Mayor, I like to give a lengthy, inspirational speech filled with anecdotes and humor that outlines the successes and challenges of that year.

I'm not doing that this year. I'm cutting to the chase. This year, in honor of how efficient and conscientious I believe our City has been, I've decided to give you a very simple list of what I believe to be our City's Top 20 Accomplishments of 2014. Now these are not at all in order of importance because all are noteworthy – these things and many more – but I hope you enjoy the highlights. So here we go:

1. Despite national and statewide controversies regarding the lack of integrity by police departments, the American Fork Police Department continues to stay above the fray with strong leadership. The American Fork Police Department not only protects residents, they proactively work to become leaders in the community and in the profession.

The Police Department hired two detectives specifically to stop illegal drug use. And since hiring them in June, our police have made 29 felony and 25 misdemeanor

drug arrests. Our detectives have removed Heroin, Methamphetamine and Marijuana from the City, and in December, officers intercepted an eight-pound shipment of marijuana coming into our City.

2. Our Police Department raised money for two K9 dogs and opened an exclusive American Fork Police Department Firearms Training Range in Cedar Valley. Both of these efforts equip the City with better resources.

3. The American Fork Fire & Rescue continues to provide exceptional Fire and Emergency Medical Services to our residents. These highly training, remarkably compassionate individuals intervene in the most life-altering moments. I've been a personal recipient of their fine care when I was in an automobile accident last month, and they have responded to nearly three thousand other important calls. They've managed:

- 356 fire calls;
- 916 hospital transfers;
- 192 vehicle accidents with 26 extrications; and
- 14 hazardous material incidents.

4. Fire and Rescue has assisted our surrounding communities, increased its percentage of full-time firefighters, and added on to the station -- all while increasing revenue to offset the cost of running the department by \$1.4 million. Despite an ever-increasing demand for services, our fire loss continues to be one of the lowest per capita and it takes every opportunity to engage with and educate the public about safety.

5. The American Fork Hospital addition was a major improvement in our community. The hospital increased its traffic and traffic for health-related business. The projects associated with IHC started in Spring 2013, and were completed Fall 2014. The IHC Specialty Clinic cost \$21.3 million, and the IHC Emergency Room Addition is valued at \$25 million. The other project on the site, not associated with IHC, was the 90 North Medical Plaza valued at \$4.6 million.

6. In 2014, residential and commercial growth continued in American Fork. We had a 10% increase in the number of development applications over the previous year. There were 259 residential units approved, 19 commercial projects approved, and a number of inspections were given. The City issued about 200 business licenses this past year.

7. Some of the new businesses and developments completed in 2014 included:

- New Hope Academy;
- the North Shore Corporate Center office and Warehouse;
- The Lakeside Planned Industrial Park office and warehouse

Underway is planning and construction of:

- Thermoworks home office;
- Zaxby's;
- Starbucks; and
- and BioLife.

8. We are currently processing the annexation of an additional 230.77 acres into the City, and 127.83 in 2014. For reference, the City is currently 6,038 acres or 9.43 square miles.

9. The City issued 70 New Single Family Residential Permits, increasing values \$15.8 million, and Commercial permits were issued adding about \$23 million of value to the City. Our planning department continues to review hundreds of residential and commercial plans for remodels, additions and upgrades in the City.

10. We are proactively improving the community with the adoption of the Transit Oriented Development Area Plan, and a Master Plan that covers roughly 380 acres

for high density, mixed use development. The Planning Commission began updating the Land Use Plan, and has improved planning district boundaries and continues to review land-use categories.

11. We're always talking about roads. I want to say clearly that this continues to be an important focus in the City and by the Public Works Division. In 2014, we made about \$11 million of road improvements, which includes water and sewer, and curb and gutter and drainage. Some major projects were located at:

- 900 West;
- 580 E. 700 N.
- Center St. and 300 N.
- The 200 South Trails; and
- The 200 East/Main Street Intersection; and
- We started the 200 West CDBG.

12. We completed an exhaustive study of the sewer system and storm drains, and retrained our personnel so they have the highest level of related training. We also replaced and improved water lines that were in desperate need of upgrades, and constructed a new water line on 200 North from 400 East to 600 East.

13. Our finance department won two awards from the Governmental Finance Officers Association: one for excellence in Budget Presentation Award, and another for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

14. We upgraded technology at Historic City Hall with a new projector and screen, and larger monitor displays for the Mayor and City Council, wireless microphones at the podium and staff table. We also entered into several lease agreements with Telecom Service Providers, allowing them to co-locate equipment in our Network Operation Center.

15. We upgraded Fiber Optic Network in the Administration building which increased the reliability and speed of the network. We upgraded our internal Fiber Optic Network Maps to include our entire Fiber Optic Network locations.

16. The City focused on the environment by starting enforcement of a new bicycle and pedestrian plan as well as an education effort regarding the program's importance. City parks crews continue to plant and prune trees and shrubs throughout the City, and we continue to be a TREE City USA City.

17. But we weren't all work and no play. In fact, the City of American Fork is a center of play for this and surrounding communities. There were more than 7,000 registrations in city recreation programs this year, including nearly 4,000 total kids'

soccer, football and basketball registrations. The current adult basketball program has more than 225 teams, including 56 High School-aged teams.

The City had more than 3,000 registrations for summer swim lessons, and more than 400 students a month in the gymnastics program.

18. The Boy Scout program, a program that runs to a degree through our Fitness Center and pays for itself offers 104 different merit badges and saw more than 3,000 registrations in 2014. I am an avid supporter of this program and am delighted to see it continue to grow.

The American Fork Fitness Center managed more than 250,000 admittances this year, not including those who visit as spectators.

19. We dedicated a new section of town for cemetery space, effectively removing a nearly 10-year-long moratorium on the sale of lots to help families with estate planning. The new area, called the “Seasons Cemetery,” will feature a children’s garden, water features, a large American Flag, and other components that beautify the area. In addition, plans are underway to maximize the space so that there will be ample burial space for almost 40 years.

20. Voters in American Fork passed the PARC TAX, which will dedicate more money to improvements of parks, recreation programs, arts, music dance and other

community enhancement programs. Personally, I was an advocate for this as I've seen the tremendous community improvements that have taken place in communities that already employ this program. I look forward to reporting back next year all the great things that this PARC tax has supported.

And there it is. Twenty impressive accomplishments that represent hundreds of employees, thousands of hours of hard work and effort, and volunteering from our citizens, hundreds of thousands of dollars entrusted by tax payers, millions of lives touched by the programs, progress and patronage of this fine City. We've seen innumerable improvements, and there is more to come.

I look forward to serving you this year. I believe this will be a great year for positive changes. I would ask that you will join with me in pledging to conscientiously contribute to this community by participating, voting, treating each other with kindness and respect, and by actively engaging in a good cause.

Thank you!